

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER 2006

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 CAT in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English. This broadcast can also be heard on Echolink by connecting to ZS6FCS or to www.zs6mrk.org and following the indicated links. This, and previous bulletins, can be downloaded from the web site of the SARL i.e. www.sarl.org.za. You can read or download previous bulletins from there and subscribe to receive future bulletins by email.

This transmission is by Hans, ZS6KR, on 145,725 and 7,066 MHz from Pretoria with a relays on 3,695 and 14,235 MHz as well as 438,825 MHz in the Pretoria area. (Other newsreaders please change to suit).

In the news today:

SCIENTIST PREDICT A SUPER SOLAR CYCLE

SARL YOUTH NET TO CELEBRATE ITS 50TH TRANSMISSION

APRS BEACON ON REUNION

You are listening to ZS6SRL. Stay tuned for more detail on these and other important and interesting news items.

SCIENTIST PREDICT A SUPER SOLAR CYCLE

Solar cycle 24, due to peak in 2010 or 2011 “looks like its going to be one of the most intense cycles since record-keeping began almost 400 years ago,” says solar physicist David Hathaway of the Marshall Space Flight Centre. He and colleague Robert Wilson presented this conclusion last week at the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco. Their forecast is based on historical records of geomagnetic storms.

Hathaway explains: “When a gust of solar wind hits Earth’s magnetic field, the impact causes the magnetic field to shake. If it shakes hard enough, we call it a geomagnetic storm.” In the extreme, these storms cause power outages and make compass needles swing in the wrong direction. Auroras are a beautiful side effect.

Hathaway and Wilson looked at records of geomagnetic activity stretching back almost 150 years and noticed something useful: “The amount of geomagnetic activity now tells us what the solar cycle is going to be like 6 to 8 years in the future,” says Hathaway.

Good news for DX!

SARL YOUTH NET TO CELEBRATE ITS 50TH TRANSMISSION THIS WEEK

The ZS6SRL Youth Net celebrates its 50th transmission on Thursday 28 December. Special inserts from some of the Youth Net's strongest supporters including Andries, ZS6VL, will be included. Additionally Gerry, ZS6GER, has donated a large laminated DX map as a prize to be drawn during the transmission.

Although conditions have not been great lately, the Youth Net is still well supported.

When circumstances allow it Nico, ZR6VT, and Craig, ZS6RH, relay the transmission on the 20 and 40 m bands as well as on the Pretoria 145,725 MHz and 70 cm repeaters. In Johannesburg Alan, ZS6BIK, or Peter, ZS6TAO, relay the transmission on the Sandton 145,700 MHz repeater.

Youth Net was started to provide an opportunity for young radio amateurs to talk with their peers and share common interests. The net controller is Stuart Reid, ZR6DBZ. With the support of several radio amateurs, the net has grown phenomenally and provides a great number of items of interest. Earlier this year Stuart was awarded the Siemens Young Radio Amateur of the Year Award by the South African Amateur Radio Development Trust for taking the initiative and maintaining a high standard of both content and operating procedure.

While Youth Net enjoys a great support, the aim remains to encourage more young people to join the weekly net. Call in on Thursday 28 December to celebrate the net's 50th time on the air. The net gets together from 17:45 on 3 650 kHz.

APRS BEACON ON REUNION

Phil, FR5DN, reports that he has put up an APRS beacon on 144,675 MHz. The transmitter power is 40 watt into a 17-element yagi, horizontally polarised and pointing towards South Africa. This is about 700 watt ERP for the moment. The beacon transmits at 1 200 baud FM every minute.

If someone can detect something, please let Phil know at e-mail fr5dn@oceanes.fr. It should run daily from about 14:00 UTC to 03:00 UTC. Remember that VK amateurs can detect repeaters at 2 800 km when the path is opened.

THIS MONTH'S RADIO ZS IS A MUST TO READ

This month's Radio ZS, the October/December edition, is a must to read. The printed version was mailed a few days ago, while members of the SARL also have access to the magazine online from www.sarl.org.za.

The edition provides great holiday reading and some antenna projects to get your teeth into, or better said, hands on! CQ Magazine author Dave Ingram, K4TWJ, makes his debut in this issue with an article entitled Ham Pride, an interesting view on what made radio popular in yesteryears. He will be a regular contributor. Another interesting article by Donovan, ZS2LR, shows how easy it is to make your own balun. Then there is an article on how to protect your shack and any other electronic installation against lightning and surges. Vidi Le Grange, ZS1EL, shares with the readers how he put an accidental discovery

to work to add 15 m performance to a 20 metre mono band beam and tells you how to do it. Then there are some of the regular features, Museum news, Radio Scouting and a report on the Wuerzburg EME Conference by Ivo, ZS6AXT, and others.

To read Radio ZS, get online or get a printed copy by joining the SARL. You find all the details on www.sarl.org.za.

DETAILS OF A BURSARY SCHEME FOR LEARNERS AND STUDENTS TO BECOME RADIO AMATEURS ANNOUNCED

The South African Amateur Radio Development Trust has announced details of its YARP 2007 bursary scheme. YARP is the acronym for Youth For Amateur Radio Programme. Bursaries are available for both the entry-level license and the full licence.

For both license classes the bursary will cover the lecture, examination and first year license fees and a printed copy of the SARL course material.

Upon the completion of the course and the passing of the theory and practical examination, the Trust will sponsor a year's membership of the SARL.

Application must be made on the prescribed form available on www.amateurradio.org.za.

CONTEST NEWS

During January 2007, you can participate in the Hunting Lions in the Air Contest over the weekend of 13 and 14 January and in the PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest over the weekend on 19 to 21 January.

CLUB NEWS

Clubs and Branch committees are requested to update their club or branch information on www.sarl.org.za/public/local/clubs.asp. Some of the information on the website is almost 4 years old.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to range from very low to low levels. The geomagnetic field is expected to range from quiet to active levels on 27 December. The expected Effective Sun Spot number for the coming week will be less than 6.

20 m and 40 m will provide best opportunities for DX. There is a possibility of 20 m openings towards the East from about 07:00 CAT and again at 14:00. From about 18:00, 20 m may open briefly towards Europe. From 18:00, 15, 20 and 80 m may open to the USA. For the CW and digital enthusiasts, it may also be worth monitoring 10 MHz.

Please visit www.spaceweather.co.za for further information.

DIARY OF EVENTS

08 January 2007 - NARC opens; 13/14 January 2007 - Hunting Lions in the Air; 19/21 January 2007 - PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest; 3 February 2007 ERB Flea market; 16 February 2007 - Closing date for submission of entries for Tinus Lange 7066 Technical Excellence Awards; 1 March 2007 - ZU license exams; 14 April 2007 - SARL AGM.

To end today's SARL News, we wish all our listeners and subscribers a happy holiday's time, our Christian listeners a blessed Christmas, our Jewish listeners happy Chanukah and our Moslem listeners a happy Eid al-Adha. May your celebrations be meaningful and bring you peace and happiness.

SARL News depends on clubs and individuals for news items of importance and interest to radio amateurs. The one and only way to ensure that your contribution will reach the SARL News team, is to place it in www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It will be appreciated if you will do it in both Afrikaans and English.

The SARL also invites all listeners to listen to the program Amateur Radio Mirror International this Sunday morning at 10:00 CAT on 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area with relays on 7 082, 7 205 and 17 695 kHz. Audio is also streamed on www.zs6mrk.org and on Echolink from ZS6FCS as for this bulletin. A repeat transmission takes place on Mondays at 21:00 on 3 215 kHz. Telkom and Sentech sponsor the ARMI transmissions on the non-amateur frequencies.

You have been listening to a news bulletin by the South African Radio League, which was compiled by Dennis, ZS4BS/2.

A prosperous week to all, 73.

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